SUPERFUND
Fact Sheet
HAMILTON/LABREE SITE
Chehalis, Washington
EPA U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY June 2002

Work on New Water Line will Begin this July

This July, EPA is planning to drill under Interstate 5 to begin installing the new water line for the Hamilton/Labree Superfund Site. EPA expects to finish the water line by mid-October. You are invited **to a public informational meeting** to get a project update on:

Tuesday, July 9
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Lewis County Public Utility District Meeting Room
321 N.W. Pacific Avenue
Chehalis

The water line will serve homes and businesses with wells affected by perchloroethylene (PCE)-contaminated groundwater from the site. EPA will present the design and schedule for the highway work and completion of the new water line, and introduce EPA's contractors who will be working on the project. EPA will also discuss the first steps in the long-term cleanup study ("Remedial Investigation"). After the presentation, we will be available to address your questions and concerns.

Background on the New Water Line

EPA will install a new water line to provide clean, safe water for domestic use. EPA has been working closely with the city of Chehalis and Lewis County on the design for the line, which will extend from a city water line on the east side of Interstate 5 to the affected homes and businesses on the west side of the freeway.

EPA will end the water line at 2296 Rice Road and approximately 130 feet south of the old Smith Tractor office building on Hamilton Road North. Monitoring results over the past eight years indicate that the groundwater plume may be expanding, but it is not expected to travel beyond these points in the next five years.

EPA has notified people whose homes or businesses will be hooked up to the new line. A public meeting was held in March 2002 to talk about the project schedule and address community questions.

In case the contaminated groundwater plume spreads farther in the future, the water line is designed to allow for some additional businesses and residences to be hooked up, if necessary. The water line is designed to accept 40 connections. Initially, 19 homes and businesses will be connected, with an additional capacity of 21 connections. The extra water line capacity is meant to address contamination from the site; it is not meant to provide water service for new growth in the area.

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In October 2001, a number of private wells along Rice Road were sampled for the first time. Fortunately, PCE was not found in any of these wells. However, PCE was found in all wells where it was previously detected. EPA has been supplying bottled water to residents with contaminated wells, and will continue to do so until hookup is completed. EPA will immediately notify property owners if PCE is found in their wells, and supply bottled water until the water line is hooked up.

EPA has finished gathering access agreements in order to begin the new line, and will be careful to protect your personal property as the work progresses. It may be necessary, however, to remove some items, such as trees and plants, in order to align the water line properly. Any items that are damaged or removed during construction will be restored to their original condition, or replaced in kind. EPA will protect many of the larger trees by building the line to avoid disturbing their root systems. As construction gets underway, EPA will be entering agreements with each property owner to clearly identify what will be replaced.

Additional Details for Properties that Need the New Water Line

- EPA will cover all costs for installing the water line to existing homes and businesses with affected wells, including the cost of the water meter and the city's "hook up" fee. The property owners will be responsible for paying future water bills to the city of Chehalis. The average city water bill for a residence outside the city limits is about $35 per month.
- If any owners of affected wells choose not to hook up to the new water line at this time, they will be responsible for paying for hookup costs if they decide to receive water from the new line in the future.
- EPA will disconnect all contaminated wells from affected houses and businesses as they are being hooked up to the new water line. This will prevent cross-contamination of the new line. At this time, owners of affected wells may still use them for watering their lawns and gardens. In addition, EPA needs access to the wells to continue tracking the movement of the contaminant plume. Well tests will also provide information to help evaluate long-term cleanup goals.
- As we learn more about the contamination and develop final cleanup plans for the site, it is possible that private wells will need to be permanently closed to protect residents' health. If it is necessary to permanently close any wells, EPA will work closely with each property owner regarding well closure.
- Bottled water will not be provided after the water line is completed, since it will provide a permanent, safe water source.
- The city of Chehalis will operate and maintain the water line after EPA builds it and the city approves it.

How Will EPA's Long-term Cleanup Study Begin?

In October 2001, EPA and the S. C. Breen Construction Company, a potentially responsible party for the site, signed an administrative order on consent. In accordance with this order, Breen will do a comprehensive investigation and evaluation of cleanup alternatives under EPA oversight. This study is called a "Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study" (RI/FS).

This spring, Breen, through its contractor Farallon Consulting, L.L.C. (Farallon), is collecting soil and groundwater samples on the Breen property and at other selected areas during the first phase of the Remedial Investigation. Farallon is collecting samples from nine new permanent monitoring wells and 24 additional reconnaissance points. Water samples are being taken from both new and existing wells, including drinking water wells. Information from these tests will help determine the extent of the Remedial Investigation, including where additional new monitoring wells may be placed. Some community members have been asked to sign access agreements for Farallon to perform this work. The agreements will

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provide access for investigation needed at the site until the RI/FS is finished.

These tests are necessary to better define how far the contamination extends, and help develop options for cleanup. This month, Farallon began taking over filter system maintenance for a small water treatment system at one homeowner's well. Farallon will also collect soil samples from the Breen property and surface water samples from Berwick Creek. Installing new monitoring wells and collecting soil samples for the first phase of the investigation will likely take about one month. Farallon will sample groundwater and water supply wells at least quarterly throughout the year. EPA and Farallon plan to begin the next round of field work in fall 2002.

EPA will continue to keep the community informed of sampling results. After site investigations are completed, EPA will evaluate cleanup alternatives and propose a cleanup approach. At this time, extensive searches have revealed no other potentially responsible parties for the site. However, EPA is open to any new information, and may identify other parties if such information becomes available.

Site History

The Hamilton/Labree site is the property near the intersection of Hamilton and Labree Roads. It is about three miles south of Chehalis, Washington, along Interstate 5. An aquifer system, which includes a shallow and a deep aquifer, is underneath the site. The shallow aquifer supplies drinking water to local residents and businesses, and is separated from the deep aquifer by about 100 feet of clay. PCE contamination has been found in ten wells to date. Owners of these wells are receiving bottled water, which was first provided by the Washington State Department of Ecology. EPA has taken over supplying the bottled water and continues to monitor the area.

In July 2000, the site was listed on EPA's Superfund National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites targeted for cleanup. In the summer of 2000, EPA collected soil and groundwater samples to locate the source and extent of the contamination associated with the area south of Hamilton Road, which is contributing to the pre-existing groundwater contaminant plume. The sampling confirmed high levels of PCE west of Interstate 5, across Hamilton Road from the United Rentals property. EPA plans to address or clean up this source and any other significant sources of PCE contamination that are discovered during the RI/FS.

Contact Information

*For questions about the **new water line project**, please call:*
Bill Longston,
Removal Project Manager
(206) 553-1679, E-mail:
longston.william@epa.gov

To get more information on the site or find out how to become involved, please call:
Debra Sherbina,
Community Involvement Coordinator
(206) 553-0247, E-mail:
sherbina.debra@epa.gov

*For questions about **long-term cleanup** of the site, please contact:*
Bob Kievit,
Remedial Project Manager
(360) 753-9014, E-mail:
kievit.bob@epa.gov

You may also reach us through our toll free number:
1-800-424-4372

EPA's Contractor:
Ecology and Environment, Inc.

Breen's Contractor:
Farallon Consulting

The Washington Department of Health has prepared health consultations on Hamilton/Labree area exposures. For more information please call **Paul Marchant**, **(360) 236-3375**.

EPA's Internet homepage: **http://www.epa.gov/r10earth -- A website has been developed for the Hamilton/Labree site. Go to the EPA Region 10 web page, click on "Index," then "H."**

For people with disabilities: Please contact Debra Sherbina at 206-553-0247 (toll-free at 1-800-424-4372) if you have any special requests for reasonable accommodations. For TTY users: Please call the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 and give the operator Debra Sherbina's phone number.

About Perchloroethylene (PCE)

PCE is a chemical commonly used in metal degreasing and cleaning operations, dry cleaning, and other industrial activities. It belongs to a family of chemicals known as "volatile organic compounds" which move easily through the environment and may be harmful to people who are exposed to them. Potential health problems from exposure depend on a variety of things, including how the chemical entered the body, how long and how often a person has been exposed, and how sensitive a person is to its effect. PCE can cause cancer in humans.

Information on potential health effects of PCE can be found on the Agency for Toxic Substances and Diseases Registry (ATSDR) web page: http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts18.html